



DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-18



DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA EXISTS TO INSPIRE, EMPOWER AND EQUIP
DEACONS AS THEY ANIMATE THEIR CONGREGATIONS TO JOIN IN GOD'S
TRANSFORMING WORK IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

www.diaconalministries.com



GREETINGS FROM DMC!

*There are different kinds of gifts. But they are all given to believers by the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve. But they all come from the same Lord. There are different ways the Spirit works. But the same God is working in all these ways and in all people. The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way. That is for the good of all. ...**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.** - 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 27*

For many, the word CHANGE can conjure up feelings of hope and renewal, while for others it can give a sense of anxiety, fear and maybe even resistance. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately for us, the only constant in life is change! And the church is certainly not immune to it. The way we 'do church' has changed dramatically in the last 20 years and by now, most ministry leaders have experienced this firsthand.

Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) was an organization that was created *by* deacons, *for* deacons, with its roots going all the way back to the 1950s! And to this day, DMC has remained committed to learning and adapting to the new 'landscapes' of ministry in order to better serve and equip deacons. We do this WITH you and FOR you, relying on the Holy Spirit to guide and direct our steps so that churches across Canada are able to transform communities for Christ!

In the pages of this report, we hope you'll see how DMC has worked alongside deacons so that they are equipped and empowered to animate their own congregations in the areas of community engagement, stewardship, justice and mercy. Every follower of Christ is called to use his or her gifts to serve others so that together we can make a significant difference in our world.

We thank you again for your partnership: your prayers, your financial support and your words of encouragement. Please take some time to read over our Annual Report and see where God has been at work, in us and through us, as we work as the body of Christ!

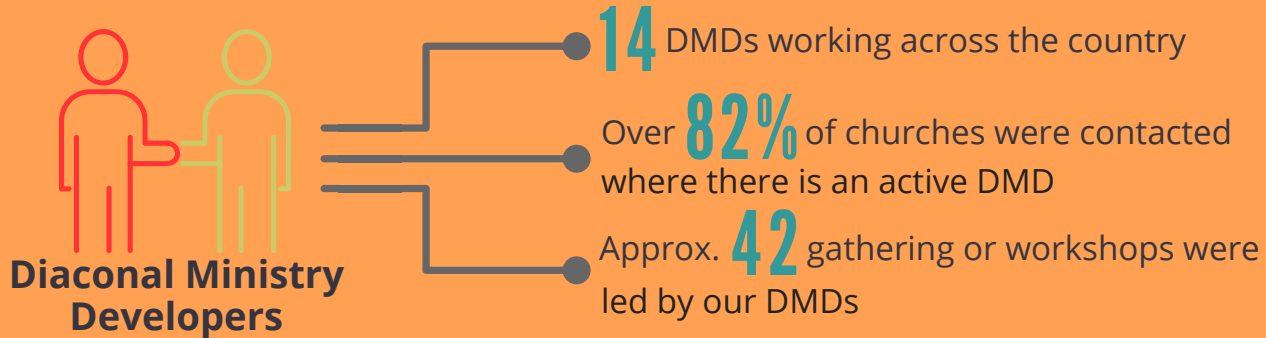
RON VANDENBRINK

National Director, DMC



DMC 2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS

Flowing from the Deacons Mandate, and based on the needs and requests of deacons across Canada, Diaconal Ministries Canada provided...



More than 90% of our OM partners from the last 10 years are still operating

10 Churches were involved in Community Opportunity Scans

16 OM partners received coaching and/or grants



Operation Manna Program



Tools/Resources

31 stories/posts shared on our e-Quip Diaconal Blog

Added 70 new followers on Facebook

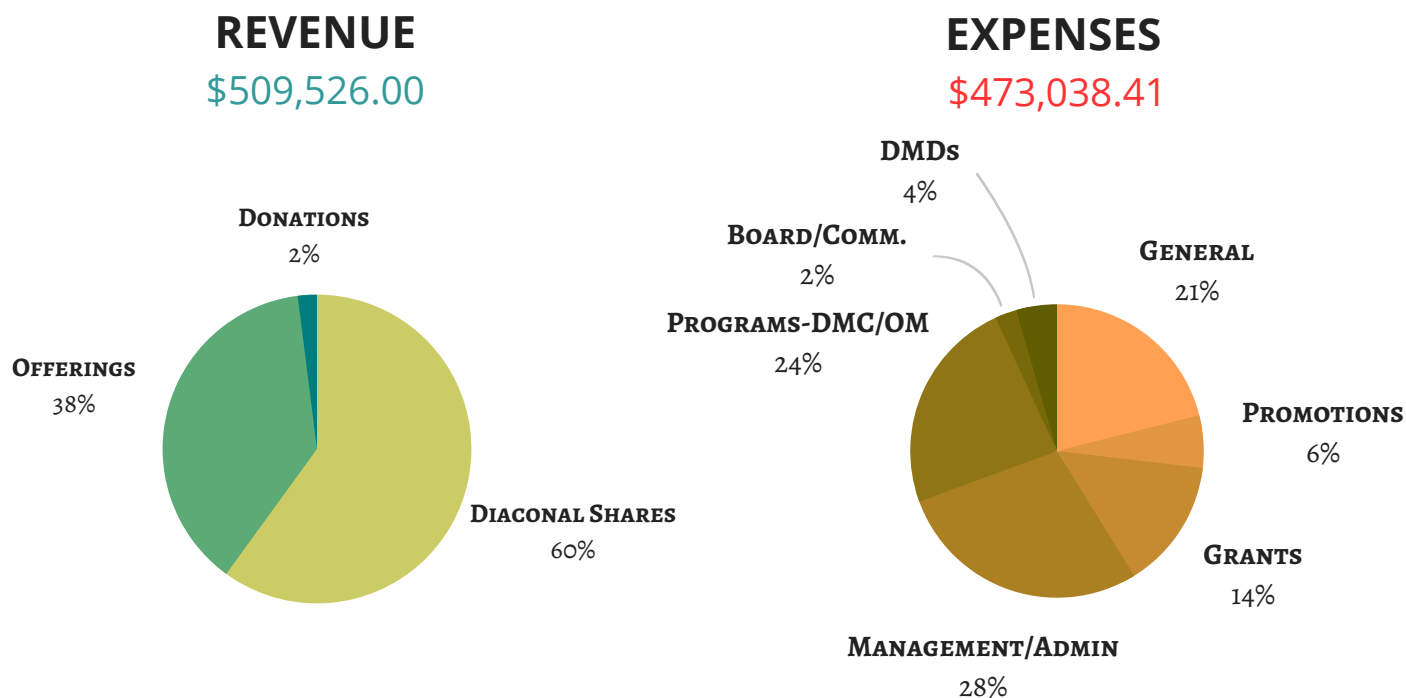
Developed 3 new resources on Recruitment, Listening Well, and Deacons being Seated at Classis & Synod



*Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it.*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

DMC is primarily funded 2 ways: through **Diaconal Ministry Shares** and the **Annual Operation Manna Offering**. From that funding, DMC provides Diaconal Ministry Developers, the Operation Manna Program and various other tools and resources in order to equip deacons to fulfill their mandate



SO WHAT ARE DIACONAL MINISTRY SHARES ANYWAY?

Diaconal Ministry Shares are the main revenue stream that helps support the activities of Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) each year. It's important to point out that Diaconal Ministry Shares (formerly "Dues") are not the same as *Denominational* or *Classical* Ministry Shares. In a nutshell, Diaconal Ministry Shares are part of the agreement that Canadian Deacons made with each other in the 1960s and recommitted themselves to in 2001 when representatives from every CRC Classis (and/or Diaconal Conference) in Canada met and approved DMC as a national organization. Each year, DMC's Board of Directors, made up of representatives from every Canadian Classis, reviews and approves the amount and each year these amounts, along with audited financial statements, are presented at DMC's Annual General Meeting.

Christ makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. -Ephesians 4:16

A DEACON'S EXPERIENCE

MEET MRS. RENE WALL - Rene served as a deacon at John Calvin CRC in Truro, NS. Rene works as a Web Application Developer for the Nova Scotia Government. She is one of those rare people who love committee work and is happiest when she is organizing or coordinating something. Her interests include singing, reading, crafting and playing with her kitties.



What did you enjoy about serving as a deacon?

I am an organizer at heart, so I enjoyed working on projects with the other deacons; whether it was cooking dinners for seniors at Christmas, preparing the annual Community Dinner for the needy in our town, setting up the apartment for our interim pastor, or organizing the Maritime Day of Encouragement.

What was one of the most positive experiences you had while serving as a deacon?

I think perhaps it was leading a team in the Out of the Cold Fundraiser the last few years... It was inter-generational, involved our church in the community, was something that people new to church could easily participate in and it was for an excellent diaconal cause – Truro Homeless Outreach Society.

What has been a challenge your diaconate faced over the past few years? How did you navigate this challenge?

We really struggled with how to answer cold calls (people we don't know). The existing practice was to give out grocery cards, but at the start of my term it became really clear that people were taking advantage of that practice... We tried a number of different things, and in the end we decided to ask for ID, and then offer them a bag of groceries. In the bag is a list of all the local resources for help (eg. local Food Bank, Salvation Army) and free lunches and dinners in the community. ...DMC has a lot of resources for you to tap into – talk to your DMD or visit their website. You don't have to go it alone!

What has your interaction or experience with Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) been like?

Hmm – this could have been my “positive experience” too. I worked very closely with DMC's Maritime Diaconal Ministry Developer (DMD) to organize the Maritime Day of Encouragement (MDOE) in 2015 and again this year. As I mentioned in the previous question, it was a way for me to use my “organizing abilities” in the role of deacon. Through DMC's support of the MDOE over the years, we've been able to bring a lot of excellent speakers to the Maritimes to encourage and support our leaders.

I finished my role as deacon this spring and am currently mentoring two new deacons. I found a lot of great training material/devotions on the DMC website for them to use. Thank you DMC!



TO READ THE FULL INTERVIEW, VISIT THE
e-QUIP DIACONAL BLOG at diaconalministries.com

OPERATION MANNA FINANCIALS

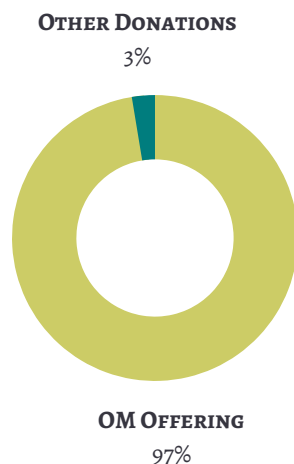
The Operation Manna (OM) Program helps churches start or grow a sustainable, community ministry that reaches people with the love of Christ.

OM delivers its services via two (2) equally important components. The first component involves **coaching and consultation**. From inquiry to application to final approval (hopefully!) and until the last grant payment is issued, DMC staff and OM Committee members are available to churches. The second component is delivered via **financial grants**. In order to maintain good accountability, yearly evaluations are done with OM partners and they are required to submit annual grant renewal applications.

Our research has shown that this 2 component model sets up our partners for success, as more than 90% of the ministries that OM has worked with in the past 10 years are still operating – and most are flourishing.

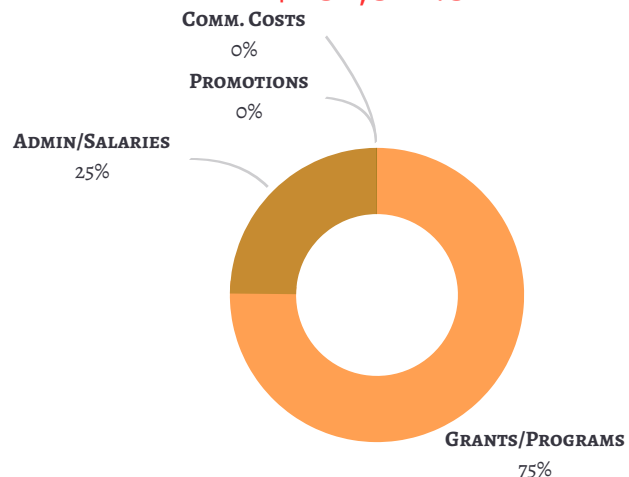
OM REVENUE

\$194,674.18



OM EXPENSES

\$184,821.82



OM PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

This story was adapted from Pastor Ken Douma's presentation at the Day of Encouragement in Edmonton, AB on Saturday, November 4, 2017. Pastor Ken is the lead pastor at Edson Peers CRC, in Edson, AB.



A couple of years ago, Pastor Ken got a phone call from Natalie Walker, Director of the **West Yellowhead Pregnancy Care Centre** (WYPCC). Natalie shared that the Centre was in serious financial trouble as a substantial grant that they counted on had fallen through and on top of that, the local economy had crashed and their donations were way down. They had just let one of their full-time staff go and reduced their Hinton office to be open by appointment only. They had \$100.00 in the bank and the future of the Centre was uncertain. Pastor Ken's church, Edson-Peers CRC, had always financially supported the Centre, but they needed something more than the usual support. This is when they turned to Diaconal Ministries Canada. Ken and Natalie spoke to Rachel Vroege, the Regional Ministry Developer for Western Canada, and asked if DMC's Operation Manna (OM) Program would be able to help them out. Rachel encouraged them to submit an application to the OM Program. "In my work, I get to meet some of the most inspiring people who are working in the trenches with people impacted by devastating injustice," Rachel observed. "Natalie is breaking down barriers between church communities, government social agencies to walking alongside those suffering the trauma of incest, rape and sexual exploitation."

WYPCC was approved as an OM Partner in 2017. The OM partnership wasn't just needed to get the Centre back on its feet financially. Firstly, most of the funds were used to offer a program called "Steps to Sexual Healing"; this allowed the Centre to expand their ministry to help many of their clients deal with any trauma they've experienced.

More than just doling out grant money, the OM Program offers coaching and consultation to its partners. The WYPCC sought to strengthen their relationship with the Edson-Peers Church. The church had always been very supportive, but primarily in a "hand's off" way. Because of the OM partnership, the church and Centre have begun working better together. One of the church's Deacons joined the WYPCC Board and the church has also hosted different events in partnership with the Centre to promote their work and help educate the community.

While there are many challenges facing the Centre and the Edson-Peers Church as they seek to bring healing and wholeness in the area of sexuality and unplanned pregnancy, "the Centre is in a much better place than it was the day that Natalie called me, in part because of the support received through Operation Manna," remarks Pastor Ken. "They were able to re-hire a staff person at their Hinton office for drop-in clients, which is a huge part of their ministry." He thanks the OM Program for equipping his church to come alongside this very worthwhile ministry. "We are excited about how God will use the Centre and how He will use us as a church!"

TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE, VISIT THE
e-QUIP DIACONAL BLOG at diaconalministries.com



West Yellowhead
PREGNANCY CARE CENTRE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

ALBERTA NORTH	- Norm Haayema	HAMILTON	- Scott Plante
ALBERTA SOUTH/SASK	- Don Miedema	HURON	- Mechele TeBrake
BRITISH COLUMBIA S/E	- Michael Prins	LAKE SUPERIOR	- Erica Snippe-Juurakko
BRITISH COLUMBIA N/W	- Cindy Verbeek	NIAGARA	- vacant
CHATHAM	- Jane Adema	QUINTE	- Coby Suurdt
EASTERN CANADA	- Ineke Neutel	TORONTO	- Martin Slofstra

DIACONAL MINISTRY DEVELOPERS

ALBERTA NORTH	- Harvey Buit
	- Lucinda Klapwyk
ALBERTA SOUTH/SASK	- Jean deBeer
BRITISH COLUMBIA S/E	- Gary Veeneman
	- John Richey
BRITISH COLUMBIA N/W*	- vacant
CHATHAM	- John Klein-Geltink
EASTERN CANADA (East)	- Karla Winham
(West)	- Anita Hogeveen
HAMILTON	- Steve Dykstra
HURON	- Fred VanderSterre
	- Len Bakelaar
LAKE SUPERIOR*	- vacant
NIAGARA*	- vacant
QUINTE	- Bill Groot-Nibbelink
TORONTO*	- vacant

*Vacant Classis are resourced by our Regional Ministry Developers (RMDs)

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DIACONAL MINISTRIES
CANADA

PHOTO CREDITS

Page 1: Stock Photo, pixabay.com

Page 2: Classis Chatham Gathering, Nov. 2017; photo by E. Knight

Page 3: Deacons Gathering at Blyth CRC, June 2018; photo by T. Heidbuurt

Page 5: Top Right-Rene Boertjes Wall, Deacon at Calvin CRC, Truro, NS; Bottom Left-Rene with her 2018 team for the Coldest Night of the Year, in support of the Truro Homeless Outreach Society. Rene's team included fellow deacon Amanda Blaauwendraat (fr. left) and the DMD for Eastern Canada, Karla Winham (fr. right)

Page 6: OM Partner Camp Shout, group shot (Jubilee CRC. St. Catharines, ON)

Page 7: Top Right-WYPCC storefront in Edson, AB; Bottom Right-WYPCC logo, designed by Robynn Lang

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